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MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD MAY 22, 2007

A Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, May 22, 2007, at 5:45 PM in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Steven R. Taylor, Mayor
Brenda S. Pelham, Vice Mayor
Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Councilor
Curtis W. Harris, Councilor
Kenneth B. Emerson, Councilor
E. Randy Sealey, Councilor
N. Gregory Cuffey, Councilor

John M. Altman, Jr., Interim City Manager
Edwin N. Wilmot, City Attorney
Ann M. Romano, City Clerk

Mayor Taylor opened the meeting at 5:45 PM. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Taylor	-	present
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	present
Councilor Bailey	-	present
Councilor Harris	-	ABSENT (arrived at 5:46 PM)
Councilor Emerson	-	present
Councilor Sealey	-	present
Councilor Cuffey	-	present

WORK SESSION – TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER AMENDING THE COUNCIL RULES AND PROCEDURES, AND PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

City Attorney Ted Wilmot opened the Work Session and announced that at the last City Council meeting Councilor Harris had requested this Work Session. Mr. Wilmot distributed handouts (filed in the City Clerk's office):

1. Talking Points;
2. Portions of the Hopewell City Code, Chapter IV;
3. Hopewell City Council Rules & Procedures, Revised July 10, 2006;
4. Excerpts from the VML Handbook for Virginia Mayors and Council Members, Chapter 8; and,
5. The LGA Citizen Comment at Public Meetings: Some Legal Guidelines from the 2004 Spring Conference.

Also, there was a survey of other localities asking *“Does your governing body provide for ‘citizens’ time” and, if so, how is it handled? For example, where it appears on the agenda, what time is allotted?”*

Mr. Wilmot reviewed the talking points on page 1 of the handout. He emphasized Item #3, that it is the responsibility of the Mayor and each Council person to interpret Council Rules. When requested by the Mayor, the City Attorney's interpretation of the rules is “final and binding.” A point of order may be called if the conversation has drifted too far away from the agenda item. Debate must pertain to the motion.

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Presently, Council Rules and Procedures Item #203 provide no debate limitation. At the last meeting on May 8, 2007, Councilors were only allowed to speak twice and only for ten minutes each time. Mr. Wilmot explained that that provision is under Robert's Rules of Order. It is incumbent on each Council person to know the rules. The City Attorney should not usually interject unless asked to by the Chair (Mayor). In the past, Council has conducted their meetings in such a way so as not to need debate limitations. Historically, Council has not voted on calling the question.

Councilor Harris had asked that this matter be included on the agenda for discussion. On several occasions, while dealing with a matter, the Mayor has told him (Councilor Harris) that he was out of order. He resented that because the Mayor had not heard what he wanted to say; and that happened several times. Then when Councilor Emerson did the same thing, the Mayor did not caution him about being out of order. That is what caused him to want to have a consistent operation. Councilor Harris has been on Council for 20 years. Council has never had what we have had recently about Council functions. Council rules have always existed but never had to use them. He hoped that the issue could be ironed out and that all members would have the same respect for each other. He hoped further that the City Attorney or Mayor will observe this and remedy the issue.

Councilor Harris referred to actions at the City Council meeting held on April 24, 2007, wherein Mayor Taylor indicated that *"he would tolerate no more personal speaking or they would be called out of order; a second time called out of order and they would be asked to leave."* Mayor Taylor defended his statements because that was during an environment outside of the decorum of this meeting and this body. He was at the top level of disgust with the behavior of the Council members. As Council members, acting outside of the decorum, they should expect that from the Mayor.

Councilor Cuffey referred to "teacher issues," such as discipline and respect for one another on Council. Allegations do not send a good signal. Sometimes there must be discipline or Councilors must defend themselves. Councilors must be able to say their piece on the subject matter and move on. Four to three votes are not good, but they are legal. He would not make an accusation to other Council members. He wants open discussion and to accept what the majority decides. He desires to represent his ward to the best of his ability.

Councilor Bailey agrees with the importance of treating each other with respect; and allowing Councilors to express opinion on an issue. Cutting them off is not fair to their constituents. There must be fair and equal representation from all seven Council members. She opposes debate limitations, and took issue with the City Attorney's statement that Robert's Rules imposes a limitation in the absence of a Council Rule indicating that there are no limits on the length of debate.

Mayor Taylor added that Council members usually research issues before the Council meeting. Questions are acceptable at the meeting. It is expected that Council members do their homework. In many cases there are Work Sessions, Public Hearings, second readings, etc., that present the material. Sometimes it seems that Council members are not prepared.

Councilor Harris agreed. However, at a recent meeting there was a motion to discuss a matter that was not on the agenda. So there was no way Council could have studied it before the meeting. After voting to put that matter before the Council, Councilor Sealey had a Resolution which he read before all of Council. Councilor Harris had never seen it before and it passed four to three.

Mayor Taylor stated that if you go back and look at the record, none of the three who voted no made a motion to table that issue.

Councilor Sealey agreed that this was not an issue before. He never heard such name calling, etc., as he has in this past year. He was on Council for two years before last year. There was thorough debate

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before that time. It is sad that we have to bring this up now just to improve decorum. Council should keep differences in private. If this discussion improves decorum, this will have been a good agenda item.

Vice Mayor Pelham felt that there was no sense in tabling something if you are in the minority.

Councilor Bailey stated that that discussion was of the reaction to the \$1.09 tax rate proposal. There was nothing to look at or homework to be done. She made the motion to table. The motion failed four to three. That is not the solution.

Vice Mayor Pelham said that things come up that should be put on the agenda for discussion. Any new item not on the agenda should be tabled. If not on the agenda, it requires a two-thirds vote to add it.

The City Attorney was asked to talk about decorum. He referred to Council Rules and Procedures,

406. **Decorum** – Council Members and Administration shall be addressed as Title or Mr., Mrs., or Miss during meetings. Any Council members or other person making personal, impertinent, abusive or slanderous statements, or who shall incite disorderly conduct while addressing Council or present in Council Chamber shall be reprimanded by the Mayor and may be barred from further audience before Council. A second occurrence shall require removal from the meeting and subsequent meetings except by petition to Council which must be approved by majority vote.

There are three times when a Council member is allowed to interrupt during a Council meeting:

1. To raise a point or order;
2. To stand on a point of personal privilege (integrity); and,
3. When the Chair makes a ruling you may appeal that ruling to the Chair. That action needs a motion and a second; a simple majority is required (4/3).

Regarding a point of clarification, before any vote the Clerk is supposed to read exactly what the motion is.

Councilor Emerson raised an issue that may arise during the public comment period. If something is said that is not true, at what point does it stop? And who stops it? Mr. Wilmot responded that comments from the public must be addressed to Council as a whole; not to an individual Council member. The City Attorney usually should not interject unless asked by the Chair. However, Council does not want to give the impression of quashing public comment.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:37 PM **motion** was made by Councilor Harris, and seconded by Councilor Cuffey, to Convene into Closed Session to discuss Acquisition/Disposition of Property, and Appointments to Boards and Commissions, in accordance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (1) & (3). Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes

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OPEN SESSION

At 7:50 PM Council convened into Open Session. Councilors responded to the question: “Were the only matters discussed in the Closed Meeting public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements; and public business matters identified in the motion to convene into Closed Session?” Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Taylor opened the regular meeting at 7:45 PM. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Taylor	-	present
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	present
Councilor Bailey		present
Councilor Harris	-	present
Councilor Emerson	-	present
Councilor Sealey	-	present
Councilor Cuffey	-	present

Prayer was offered by Minister Eva Brown, Good Shepherd Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilor Harris, and seconded by Councilor Cuffey, to approve the Consent Agenda: Minutes Regular meeting 5/8/07; Pending List; Information for Council Review: [ARLS minutes 3/20/07; School Board minutes 5/10/07; School Board minutes 3/8/07, 4/5/07, 4/23/07, and agenda 5/10/07; Recreation Commission minutes 3/14/07 & Agenda 5/9/07; HRHA Agenda 5/14/07]; Personnel Change Report; Financial Report – none; Public Hearings Announcements: Set a Public Hearing on June 12, 2007 to consider granting real estate tax exemption to the Archaeological Conservancy; Set a Public Hearing on June 12, 2007 to receive nominations for two vacancies on the Hopewell School Board, terms 7/1/07-6/30/10; and Set a Public Hearing on June 12, 2007 re: Meals Tax Increase; Routine Approval of Work Sessions: none; Ordinances on second and final reading: none; Proclamations/Resolutions/Presentations: Relay for Life Day June 1, 2007. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	(out of room)
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes

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Mayor Taylor presented the proclamation for Relay for Life to Tricia Cox. She invited everyone to attend at 6:30 PM on June 1, 2007. Senator Steve Martin will be present to sing the National Anthem. All cancer survivors in the community will be named individually and take the track first. Then all cancer caregivers will take the track next. They will all work all night. The Luminary Ceremony will be at 9:00 PM. Ms. Cox asked Mayor Taylor to read the proclamation at the event on June 1. Mayor Taylor asked all those who have participated in the past to stand. Ms. Cox gave 452-3275 at JRMC as the number to call for further information. Finally, she announced that Mrs. Des Moore was recently diagnosed with breast cancer and will be there to participate.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Marion Hebert, 711 Mansion Drive, Hopewell, addressed Council. She wanted to tell Council great job, but could not say that yet. The last Council meeting she attended was about the tax rate. Then the contest for the City song was discussed. She was appalled that the City would consider paying \$4,000 for a song; it was reduced to \$1,000. Someone who wants to do it should do it for the self pride not for the money. How can the City afford \$4,000, or even \$1,000, for a song? She questioned Council about civic pride. Why don't we ask citizens to work with Council about City renovation, etc.? She would be willing to help paint buildings in the City, as she did in another locality. She urged Council to think about what they are doing, and not to waste money. She referred to removing the dock roof at the marina. The City paid a lot of money to remove that roof, and in her opinion, it does not look good. She urged Council to use the money wisely and to seek citizen input.

Walter Guilbeault, 7719 Rolling Hill Road, Hopewell, opened Martial Arts World at the Crossings. The facility teaches Tai Kwan Do. Mr. Guilbeault is a college professor who wants to give children a place to go after school. It is a structured program and he welcomes the opportunity to come before Council. He just purchased a home in Hopewell.

Councilor Cuffey invited Mr. Guilbeault to address Council. Martial Arts World goes out to the schools and picks up the children. They bring them to Martial Arts World where they do homework, provide healthy snacks, and teach one hour Tai Kwan Do training. 90% of the students are on the honor roll or higher. The program is an asset to the community.

There being no other speakers, Communications from Citizens closed at 8:00 PM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – PROPOSED FY 2007-2008 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) BUDGET

The City of Hopewell has received its FY 2007-2008 allocation of funding in the amount of \$218,552. The City Administration has reviewed all of the applications for funding submitted by various agencies and has developed a proposed FY 2007-2008 CDBG budget for City Council's consideration.

The FY 2007-2008 Financial Plan anticipates \$218,552 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, which is a reduction of 1.5% from the FY 2006-2007 allocation. The City staff proposes allocating \$32,782 to various organizations to support public service activities. This amount represents 15% of the entitlement grant, which is the HUD-established maximum amount that can be allocated to such activities. The balance of the grant includes \$43,710 or 20% for administration of the program and \$142,058 or 65% for the fund balance, which has been historically utilized for infrastructure and housing improvements.

CDBG allocations have been steadily decreasing since the FY 2005-2006 allocation. Further reductions in HUD dollars will result in decreased funding opportunities for local qualified projects.

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Consequently, these organizations will have to increase solicitation of funding to non-governmental agencies.

No itemized budget was included in Council's agenda packet; nor was the Curb and Gutter Priority List. That will be addressed at a future Work Session.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Bailey, to adopt the CDBG Budget and allocate funds, without the priority list.

Councilor Harris was told that the Curb and Gutter priority list would be discussed under the CDBG budget; then he was told that it would be discussed at a Work Session. Mr. Altman took him on a block-by-block tour of Arlington Heights. He did not understand where the City was as relates to the question that he raised.

Mr. Altman reported that as a result of the discussion during the last budget work session and public hearing, there were several additions. Vice Mayor Pelham asked to look at some other areas. There are not enough funds for Councilor Harris's concern, let alone all of the others. If Council is willing to endorse Arlington Heights, we can develop that and bring back the plan to Council. As additional project needs are added, the CDBG dollars are scattered. Then it becomes that we are looking at a City-wide curb and gutter project. We need another Work Session, and further guidelines. There are competing interests for limited resources.

Councilor Harris stated that all of the community is eligible for CDBG programs. Some others are not eligible. He hopes that we can speak to the whole City. Dellrose Avenue was one of the areas that was qualified for CDBG funds. It took five years to complete that community with curb and gutter. All of the money spent in that neighborhood came from CDBG funds. That was a slow process. We used to have more money from the CDBG program. Some of the money was spent otherwise than in poor neighborhoods. We need to have a program put in place and set up a program on what we are going to do. How much we are going to spend. And not limit it to funds from CDBG programs. At the same time, we would be improving the whole City. He suggested that we start our plan in the Arlington Heights neighborhood. This would be the second reading of the block grant program. He wanted to be sure that the program already begun in the Arlington Heights area even if it is only one street a year.

Mr. Altman reported that there is one project on Berry Street for this project year.

Upon the roll call on the **Motion** made by Vice Mayor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Bailey, to adopt the CDBG Budget and allocate funds, without the priority list, the vote resulted:

Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROJECTS (FUND 52)

TOTAL CDBG ALLOCATION - \$218,552

	<u>Requested (\$)</u>	<u>Recommended (\$)</u>
Public Service (15% of Grant or \$32,782 max.)		
Rainbow Summer Program	12,000	5,000
CARES Homeless Shelter	10,000	6,000

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Hopewell-Prince George Healthy Families	15,400	6,000
The James House	5,000	2,782
The Boys & Girls Club of Virginia`	10,000	4,000
Hopewell Respite Care Group Program	10,000	4,0000
Hopewell Youth Sport League Registration	15,000	2,000
Hopewell Redevelopment & Housing Authority Fun Time Program	5,000	3,000
Foster Grandparents Program	15,000	0
Program Administration and Planning (20% of Grant or \$43,710 max.)		
CDBG Administration & Planning	43,710	43,710
Housing Rehabilitation & Spot Blight		
HRHA - Langston Park	50,000	0
Friendship Baptist Church Community Development Corporation: Housing Rehab for Arlington Road Corridor	168,000	0
Elder Homes: City Wide Emergency Repair Program	28,000	28,000
Public Facilities		
Community Center Tennis Court Replacement	63,300	63,300
Metal Siding Replacement Community Center Pool	128,500	0
North 14 th Avenue Improvements	30,000	0
Berry Street	50,000	50,000
Sunnyside Avenue	42,000	0
Waverly Street	150,000	0
Liberty Street	50,000	0
2600 Block of Boston Street	n/a	n/a
19 th Avenue	n/a	n/a
1800 Block of Sunnyside Avenue (turn-around)	n/a	n/a
Uncommitted Funds¹		760
Total CDBG Funds:	\$909,910	\$218,552

¹ These funds are held in reserve until City Council reviews the projects.

**REGULAR BUSINESS – ORDINANCE TO INCREASE THE FEE ASSESSED ON CONVICTED
CRIMINAL AND TRAFFIC DEFENDANTS TO PAY FOR COURTHOUSE SECURITY**

Recent legislation was passed authorizing the city to increase the fees for courthouse security assessed against convicted defendants in all criminal and traffic cases in the city's district and circuit courts from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

The General Assembly recently passed legislation authorizing an increase in the fees assessed against convicted defendants in all criminal and traffic cases in the city's district and circuit courts from \$5.00 to \$10.00. These fees are collected by the clerks of the respective courts, remitted to the treasurer, and held by the treasurer subject to appropriation by the city council to the sheriff's office for the funding of courthouse security personnel, and if requested by the sheriff, equipment and other personal property used in connection with courthouse security.

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Motion was made by Vice Mayor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Cuffey, to approve the ordinance on first reading to increase the fee assessed on convicted criminal and traffic defendants to pay for courthouse security, from \$5.00 to \$10.00. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes

REGULAR BUSINESS – RELOCATION ASSISTANCE FOR RESIDENTS OF 330 APPOMATTOX STREET

The City Council has authorized City Administration to proceed with the purchase of 330 Appomattox Street as part of the City's implementation of the Downtown Revitalization Plan. The City Council directed the City Administration to present Council with a relocation assistance package for the residents of 330 Appomattox Street that will be displaced as a result of the City's purchase of the property.

The City Administration signed an option agreement to purchase the property located at 330 Appomattox Street. The current owners, James and Nickie Demet, have received an offer to purchase the property as part of the purchase of several of the Demet's holdings in the downtown area from a third party. The City Administration discussed the proposed purchase with City Council and at the May 15, 2007 Council meeting, City Council authorized the City Administration to exercise the options and purchase the property. At the May 15 meeting, Council also instructed the City Administration to present Council with a relocation package similar to what will be provided to the residents of The Bluffs apartment complex. City Council had previously authorized the one-time payment of \$500.00 per occupied dwelling unit as part of the Bluffs acquisition. The relocation proposal is consistent with the proposal approved for the Bluffs.

Motion was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Harris, to resolve to approve and authorize the City Administration to provide a one-time payment of \$500.00 per occupied unit (at the time of purchase) to the residents of 330 Appomattox Street. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted

Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes

WAIVE COUNCIL'S RULES & PROCEDURES

Motion was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Harris, to waive Council's Rules & Procedures to postpone for 90 days the marketing of the Bluffs and the Marina. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

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Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes

S.L. NUSBAUM – THE BLUFFS & THE MARINA

Motion was made by Councilor Harris, and seconded by Councilor Emerson, to resolve to agree to postpone marketing and entering into any agreements for ninety (90) days to sell, lease or develop the Marina and the Bluffs properties and to authorize the City Manager to sign an agreement to that effect with S.L. Nusbaum Realty Co. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted

Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes

WAIVE COUNCIL RULES & PROCEDURES

Motion was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Harris, to waive Council's Rules & Procedures to set a Public Hearing to receive School Board nominations. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes

SET A PUBLIC HEARING – SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATIONS

Motion was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Harris, to set a Public Hearing on June 12, 2007 at 7:30 PM to receive public comments on nominations to the two vacancies on the Hopewell School Board, which terms extend from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes

REGULAR BUSINESS – APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Motion was made by Councilor Harris, and seconded by Councilor Cuffey, to resolve to appoint Christopher Jamison to the Recreation Commission for a four-year term extending through October 31, 2010, and, to appoint Connie Gregory to the Clean City Commission, Ward #3, for a four-year term extending through October 31, 2010. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Cuffey announced the Joint Ward 6 and Ward 7 meeting on Thursday, May 24, 2007, at 7:00 PM at the Elk Lodge, 1500 Arlington Road, Hopewell. The agenda includes: Crime; Clean & Safe Neighborhoods; Economic Growth & Development; Taxes & Assessments; and Input from Citizens. In another matter, Councilor Cuffey represented the City in two golf tournaments last week. The first was on Monday with Congressman Randy Forbes, with Mayor Taylor and Councilor Emerson. The second was on Friday in the Tim Reid Celebrity Scholarship Tournament with Councilor Emerson and City Attorney Ted Wilmot. Both occasions provided opportunities for relationship building.

Councilor Sealey reported on the first meeting with the new City Manager Ed Daley last Friday night, May 18. It was very productive and a good start to a wonderful relationship.

Councilor Emerson reported on an exciting couple of weeks. He attended the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Banquet and applauded Tommy Wells, Chairman. Mrs. Smith, Tom Blount and Bob Parlier were recognized. Councilor Emerson appreciated everyone who attended the Ward 3 meeting on May 1 at the new Library. The library is still the talk of the town. He announced two Ward 3 vacancies on the Neighborhood Watch Advisory Board and asked for volunteers to contact him or the Police Department. Finally, he looks forward to participating in the Relay for Life on June 1. It is a great cause.

Councilor Bailey announced a Waterfront Development Committee Public Input Meeting for the Future of the Marina to be held some time in July. The public is invited for their input. She regretted missing the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Banquet, but she was in Richmond for the Minds in Motion story of Jamestown. They were also there on Sunday. The outdoor movie, Happy Feet, originally scheduled for May 5, has been rescheduled for Monday, May 28, Memorial Day, at 8:00 PM at the vacant lot on Appomattox Street. In another matter, she agreed with Mrs. Marion Hebert the importance of involving the community and volunteers. The downtown merchants need some compliments rather than just criticism. Finally, Councilor Bailey held up a picture of a young sergeant from Hopewell visiting his French fiancé. They came to Hopewell and raised a family. The picture was originally in Look Magazine years ago. She announced the untimely death today of the couple's son, Thierry Collins, and offered condolences to his mother Jeannine Collins.

Councilor Harris reported that he attended the Beacon Theatre and enjoyed the musical talents of Mr. Crookston. He even brought up some HHS students to sing with him. Then Mr. Crookston sang a song entitled, "Curtis Harris" that will be published. Vice Mayor Pelham and Councilor Bailey were in attendance also.

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Vice Mayor Pelham looked forward to Thursday's Joint Ward meeting for Wards 6 & 7 at the Elks Lodge. She thanked Mr. Wells for a great job at the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Banquet, as well as Ms. Verna Hock. She encouraged volunteers to assist them with that program. Vice Mayor Pelham announced that Kit Weigel wrote the lyrics to the song entitled, "Curtis Harris" that was sung by Mr. Crookston. She attended the anniversary at the Fountain of Life Church, whose pastor is Pastor Ron Jamison. She thanked him publicly for all he and his wife are doing on East Broadway. She also announced that June 2 is the House of Prayer Family & Friends Day on Raleigh Street. All are welcome. Juneteenth will be held on June 30 at Appomattox Manor. That commemorates the date the slaves were freed. This is the second year Hopewell has celebrated the occasion. More information will follow.

Mayor Taylor enjoyed the short Council meeting. He enjoyed the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Banquet.

ADJOURN

At 8:39 PM, **motion** was made by Vice Mayor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Cuffey, to adjourn the meeting. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson	-	yes

Steven R. Taylor, Mayor

Ann M. Romano, City Clerk